

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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S E C R E T IAEA VIENNA 8037

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: AORG TECH IAEA CA FR GW

SUBJECT: CANADIAN VIEWS ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE

REF: LONDON 14368

1. IN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION ON SEPTEMBER 18
WITH KRATZER, BEATTIE, DIRECTOR OF ARMS CONTROL
DIVISION OF CANADIAN MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
AND SECOND RANKING MEMBER OF CANADIAN DELEGATION
TO SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE, PREDICTED THAT CANADA
WILL TAKE REALISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARD RESOLUTION
OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANADIAN AND FRENCH
VIEWPOINTS AT RECENTLY CONCLUDED MEETING.
BEATTIE EXPLAINED CANADIAN TACTICS IN SEEKING
AGREEMENT ON FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS AS BASED
IN VIEW THAT, SINCE FRENCH SEEMED ALREADY COM-
MITTED BY THEIR PUBLISHED TRILATERAL AGREEMENT
WITH KOREA TO THE PACKAGE ON WHICH SUPPLIER
CONSENSUS SEEMED ALREADY ASSURED, THERE WAS
LITTLE RISK IN MAKING ONE FURTHER ATTEMPT
TO OBTAIN SOMETHING BETTER. IN APPARENT
EXPLANATION OF LATENESS OF THIS CANADIAN
INITIATIVE, HE STATED THAT IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY
THAT OFFICIALS HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING MINISTERS

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TO FOCUS ON ISSUE, AND TO APPRECIATE DISTINCTION

BETWEEN FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS (OR FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS IN CANADIAN NOMENCLATURE) AND "TRANSFER" SAFEGUARDS. HE ALSO STATED THAT INTENSE POLITICAL CONTROVERSY ENGENDERED BY NUCLEAR EXPORT ISSUE IN CANADA, WITH OPPOSITION MAKING ALMOST DAILY INQUIRIES ON WHAT GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO CONTAIN PROLIFERATION, MADE IT HIGHLY DISIREABLE THAT GOVERNMENT BE ABLE TO SAY IT HASURGED BEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BEFORE AGREEING TO ANYTHING LESS.

2. BEATTIE AGREED THAT, WHILE FULL FUEL CYCLY SAFEGUARDS WERE PREFERABLE, A SUPPLIER'S CONSENSUS WHICH, FOR FIRST TIME ENGAGED FRENCH ON NON-PROLIFERATION MEASURES -- ON ONES, MOREOVER, WHICH GO WELL BEYOND NPT OBLIGATIONS -- WOULD REPRESENT HIGHLY FAVORABLE OUTCOME. HE PREDICTED, THEREFORE, THAT FOLLOWING PROBABLE MINISTERIAL LEVEL APPROACH TO FRENCH, CANADIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT CONSENSUS AT NEXT SUPPLIERS MEETING. WE SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT FRENCH POSITION WOULD CHANGE.

3. BEATTIE MADE IT CLEAR THAT, WHILE CANADA FAVORS FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS, THE CONCEPT OF ACHIEVING THIS THROUGH A MODIFICATION OF THE IAEA SAFEGUARD SYSTEM WHICH MIGHT ATTRACT UNIVERAL ACCEPTANCE, WAS PURELY A UK PRODUCT. BEATTIE HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO THE WISDOM OF OPENING THE IAEA SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM TO REVISION, AND SEES NO LIKELIHOOD THAT A REVISION WOULD ATTRACT THE UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF SAFEGUARDS WHICH THE UK HOPES FOR. WHILE SPEAKING PERSONALLY HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT CANADA WOULD SUPPORT A UK INITIATIVE, EVEN OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE, TO OPEN THE AGENCY SYSTEM FOR REVIEW. BEATTIE BELIEVES THAT THERE MAY BE A FEW COUNTRIES -- HE MINTIONED SPAIN AS A POSSIBILITY -- WHICH WOULD ACCEPT FULL FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARDS EVEN THOUGH REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE NPT ITSELF, BUT HE NOTED THAT
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THE EXISTING AGENCY SYSTEM PROVIDED A BASIS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS, AS IT ALREADY HAS IN A FEW CASES.TAPE

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